

US20020115

REMARKS

Claims 2-8, 11-14 and 18-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 9, 10, 15, 16 and 17 have been canceled. Claims 2-6, 8, 11-14 and 18-20 have been amended and claims 2, 6-8, 11-14 and 18-20 were objected to. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's notation that claims 2, 6-8, 11-14 and 18-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants believe the amendments made herein add no new matter. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 3-5, 10 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Needles, U.S. Patent No. 2,716,512. Claims 1, 10 and 17 have been canceled and claims 3-5 have been amended herein to be dependent upon independent claim 2, also currently amended herein. Revised independent claims 2, 11 and 18 have been rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants respectfully submit this rejection has been overcome. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

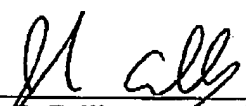
For the reasons discussed above, Applicants believe that claims 2-8, 11-14 and 18-20 are in condition for immediate allowance. It is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims in the application are allowable over the prior art of record. Early notification of allowability is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions regarding this matter, please contact the undersigned attorney.

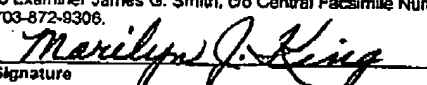
Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 14, 2005

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION (37 CFR 1.8(a))	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being:	
<input type="checkbox"/> deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transmitted by facsimile to the Patent and Trademark Office to Examiner James G. Smith, c/o Central Facsimile Number 703-872-8306.
Date: <u>June 14, 2005</u>	 _____ Signature Marilyn J. King (type or print name of person certifying)